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Remarks

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the Remarks provided herein. Applicant would like to point out the errors in the Examiner's Final Office Action.

In the Response to Remarks on page 12 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner found non-persuasive the two issues of contention made by the applicant. The first issue is that the claimed design performs an inquiry not only at the first local server but also at other servers, whereas the Dickinson's design clearly does not. The second issue involves the master server of the claimed design. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner in these issues and would like to explain in more detail the differences between the claimed design and the Dickinson's design.

With respect to the first issue, the claimed design reveals on Page 14, Lines 3-7 that "*a search inquiry placed at one particular web card server may be passed simultaneously, through the interface of the protocols, to all remote web card servers that have the established protocols with the particular web card server. The search can then be done simultaneously at all remote web card servers.*" (emphasis added).

However, the Dickinson's design teaches on column 8, Lines 7-27 that the card information can be retrieved from other computers when it is not available at the local computer, as indicated by the Examiner. That is, when a search inquiry is entered to the Dickinson's system, search is initially made on the local workstation (server) where the retrieval is sought. If the information for retrieval exists upon the local workstation (server), the corresponding business card information is transferred to the application that sought to retrieve the information and the search process then completes. Only when the information selected for retrieval does not exist upon the workstation (server) where the retrieval is sought (i.e., it is not available at the local computer), the inquiry is passed to other computers (e.g., the publishing host) that are then searched for the information to be retrieved.

On the other hand, within the claimed design, when a user placed a search inquiry at the first server local to the user, the inquiry is forwarded to one or more other servers having the same protocols established with the first server so that any search

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inquiry is performed not only at the first server but also at said one or more other servers (see Claim 1). In other words, no matter whether the information selected for retrieval is available at the local server where the inquiry is placed, search would be performed at all the other remote servers, which ensures that all the card information on the claimed network of systems matching the inquiry can be presented to the user as explained in more detail below.

The claimed design has advantages over the Dickinson prior art. As stated in the BACKGROUND of the subject application (Page 2, Line 13-Page 3, Line 10), the claimed network of systems is intended to perform an "approximate" search in the absence of the accurate contact information. For example, if a searcher desires to get the business card information of persons with the family name, *Smith*, the claimed network will simultaneously conduct the search at all the web servers including the master server (3721™ server), the local web servers owned by other ISPs/ICPs and the local web servers within the intranets of multiple companies. Then the master server(s) collects all the search results (all persons named *Smith* who registered his business card with one server located in the network) from respective slave web servers and/or the master server(s) itself (themselves) and delivers the collected results to the searcher.

To the contrary, within the Dickinson's design, if one or more persons named *Smith* are found at the local server where the retrieval is sought, their card information will be transferred as the search result to the searcher and the search process ends with the other remote servers left unsearched. Only when no person named *Smith* or no information for retrieval is found at the local server, would the other remote web servers be searched. Thus, for the Dickinson's design, only some of persons who match the search inquiry are presented to the searcher. It may be appreciated that the Dickinson's design is more suitable for performing an "accurate" search because the search process ends at the point that an accurately matched business card is found at some server.

For the above reasons, Dickinson does not anticipate claims 1-3 and 5-25 under 35 USC Sec. 102(b), and the rejections are in error.

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With respect to the second issue, the applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner fails to recognize the significant technical difference in the master server between the claimed design and the Dickinson's design. As for the master server within the Dickinson's design, the computers hold master cards and replicated cards. When the design is dealing with a master card found in a computer not local to the user's computer, then that remote computer is the server (master server) at that instance. Hence, all the computers within the design are able to serve as master servers or slave servers. It is to be recognized that the term "master server" within the Dickinson's design means a server that holds master cards and the term "slave server" means a server that holds replicated cards. In other words, a master or slave is a concept relative to cards in Dickinson.

Quite to the contrary, within the claimed design, it reveals, on Page 7, Lines 15-17, that "*the global card search may be coordinated by the master card server, such as 3721™ server 11. The master server may coordinate the propagation of data synchronization of any updates between the slave servers.*"

Also the claimed design teaches, on Page 16, Lines 11-14, that "*in the centrally controlled network of systems of web cards, the master web card server 100 is in charge of transmitting all search inquiries, and passing the updates. Thus, each of other web card servers 101 may establish only one protocol with the master web card server 100.*"

It is quite apparent that the master server herein refers to a server that centrally controls the whole network of systems (i.e., controls the slave servers). The master server may contain a global card exchange center, and all of the updates or data of the slave servers may be transmitted to the master server for passing on to another or other desired slave services for synchronization of these updates therewith. When a user conducts a search at a slave server, the search will not only be performed by the local search engine of the particular slave server, but also be passed onto the master card search engine. The master server simultaneously transmits all search inquiries to all the other slave servers to retrieve the inquired information and then collect the search results for delivery to the user. It is submitted that there is no master server within the Dickinson's design that functions as described above. Stated another way,

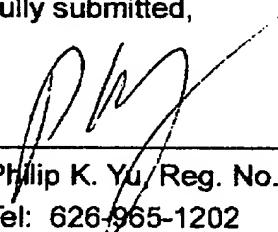
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the master servers used in the two designs are clearly different in that one is the master of cards and the other is the master of the network.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined in the amended and new claims is novel over the Dickinson's design, and further cannot be obvious in view of Dickinson. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed in due course.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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